

Remarks

Applicants wish to correct an inadvertent error in SEQ ID NO: 1, which is effectively the consensus of the amino acid sequence of the CA-SP1 cleavage site of DSB-sensitive HIV-1 isolates NL4-3 *and* RF (see paragraph [0036]). The error occurred in the fourth and fifth positions of SEQ ID NO: 1. SEQ ID NO: 1 should be KARV/ILAEAMS, not KARVI/LAEAMS (change underlined). Nucleotide sequences encoding this region are underlined in SEQ ID NO: 5 and 7, as found in Figures 6 and 8, respectively. It would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that the underlined portion of SEQ ID NO: 7 in Figure 8 encodes the amino acid sequence KARILAEAMS, not KARVIAEAMS. Thus, SEQ ID NO:7 was mistranslated, and SEQ ID NO: 1 should be KARV/ILAEAMS. Correction is sought to SEQ ID NO: 1 as it appears in Figure 4 and claim 47.

Applicants similarly seek correction to SEQ ID NO: 10 which follows from the correction to SEQ ID NO: 1. According to paragraph [0041], "SEQ ID NO: 10 depicts the nucleotide sequence that encodes . . . SEQ ID NO: 1" and thus, based on paragraph [0036], should represent the consensus of the underlined portions of SEQ ID NO: 5 in Figure 6 and of SEQ ID NO: 7 in Figure 8. It would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that SEQ ID NO: 10 does not encode SEQ ID NO: 1 because it does not contain the alternate nucleotide found at position 16 in the underlined portion of SEQ ID NO: 7 that encodes the alternate amino acid in SEQ ID NO: 1. Correction is sought to add the alternate nucleotide to SEQ ID NO: 10 based on Figure 9.

Applicants also seek correction to an inadvertent error in paragraph [0046] which relates to the correction of SEQ ID NO: 1. Paragraph [0046] provides the comparison of

Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace original Figures 4 and 9 with replacement Figures 4 and 9, attached hereto.

the amino acid sequence of the CA-SP1 cleavage site region from different HIV-1 clades, which are represented by strains NL4-3 and RF. However, the amino acid sequence derived from the nucleotide sequence of strain NL4-3 (SEQ ID NO: 5) was compared with the amino acid sequence of RF derived by *mistranslation* of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7. One of ordinary skill in the art, comparing the *correct* amino acids sequences of the CA-SP1 cleavage site of RF and NL4-3, would realize that the difference between the two clades is isoleucine to **valine two amino acids** upstream of the CA-SP1 cleavage site, rather than isoleucine to **leucine one amino acid** upstream from the CA-SP1 cleavage site. Amendment to paragraph [0046] is sought to correct this error. Support for this amendment to paragraph [0046] is supported by the nucleotide sequences of NL4-3 and RF represented by SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 7, respectively; and by the amended SEQ ID NO: 1.

Applicants also seek correction to an inadvertent error in SEQ ID NO: 3. SEQ ID NO: 3 represents the amino acid sequence of the CA-SP1 cleavage site from a DSB-*resistant* mutant of strain RF, which is encoded by the underlined portion of SEQ ID NO: 6 in Figure 7 (*see* paragraph [0037]), and also by SEQ ID NO: 9 in Figure 9 (*see* paragraph [0041]). It would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that SEQ ID NO: 3 is mistranslated and should be **KARILAEVMS** rather than be **KARVIAEVMS**. Correction of this minor error in SEQ ID NO: 3 as it appears in paragraphs [0053], [0074], [0075]; Figure 4; and claims 48, 64 and 69 is sought.

The amendments to paragraphs [00121] and [00122] were made to merely reflect the manufacturers of the listed pharmaceuticals.

The specification has been amended to direct the entry of the sequence listing after the claims of the above identified application; and to insert SEQ ID NOS into the text of the specification, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821-1.825. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(g), this submission includes no new matter. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(f), the paper copy of the Sequence Listing and the computer readable copy of the Sequence Listing submitted herewith in the above application are the same.

Amendment to claim 3 is supported by, *inter alia*, claim 2 and the specification at paragraphs [0029], [0030], [0035], [0049], [0104], [0107], [0109], [0110], [0120], [0162], and [0166].

These changes are believed to introduce no new matter. Their consideration and entry is respectfully requested.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicant believes the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Lawrence B. Bugaisky
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 35,086

Date: August 19, 2004
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

229223_5